

read - 10/2/92
discussed - 10/9/92

The Election Show - Ellis Weiner

+ etc - (?) To Vote or not to Vote
Who will be the next mayor?

Nixon character is funny
but probably a mistake

Woman candidate

Kids more active involvement
ask more important questions
Puppets set to vote, but kids don't

scary

Kids need to make a difference, too
ask the critical questions

Kara - kids can aspire to
when ^{old enough to} ~~run~~ run for office,
in going to make sure
kids don't get forgotten

encourage
kids help register adults to vote

Ruthhouse could be like the Emperor
without clothes - then kids expose
~~as exposed~~ ^{as} through their
questions

SHINING TIME STATION

THE ELECTION SHOW

BY

ELLIS WEINER

From characters and storylines created by
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TORONTO DRAFT
SEPTEMBER 24, 1992

SCENE 1
(MAINSET)

(FADE IN)

(DAY -- STACY AND MIDGE ARE
ARGUING. DAN AND BECKY EAVESDROP
FROM THE ARCADE)

MIDGE:

Stacy, I respect your
opinion. Except when you
disagree with me.
Because then you're
wrong. Like now. I'm
voting to reelect Osgood
Bob Flopdinger for Mayor
and so should you.

STACY:

But there are so many
problems that the Mayor
hasn't talked about,
Midge. The landfill is
almost full and we don't
even have a recycling
program. Main Street
needs a second
stoplight--

(ANGLE ON ARCADE. MR. C. APPEARS
BESIDE BECKY)

DAN:

I've never heard Stacy
and Midge argue like this
before.

MR. C:

They're arguing because
it's election time...
This ought to be
interesting.

(RESUME ON DESK -- STACY CONCLUDES)

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

STACY:

Maybe it's time to give
someone else a chance.
Like this man who just
moved to town. The one
who's running against the
Mayor.

woman ?

MIDGE:

You're only saying that
because you agree with
yourself. If you ^{also} agreed
with me, it would be two
against one and we'd win.

✓]

(SHE LEAVES IN A HUFF AS STACY
SIGHS. MR. C. APPEARS ON HER DESK
AS BECKY AND DAN RUN OVER TO JOIN
THEM)

DAN:

Stacy? Are you going to,
like, tell Midge she
can't come to the station
any more?

STACY:

Why would I do that?

BECKY:

Because you just had a
big fight.

STACY:

That wasn't a fight.
It's time to elect our
mayor. People all over
town are having
discussions like that.
Just because Midge and I
don't agree doesn't mean
we're not still friends.

DAN:

It looked pretty serious.

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

STACY:

Oh, it is very serious.

BECKY:

Then how can you disagree about something that serious and still be friends?

MR. C:

Some things are so serious, most people agree to disagree about them and leave it at that.

STACY:

But we do agree that the most important thing is to vote. A vote is power. But only if you use it.

MR. C:

And how will you use it, Stacy?

(STACY SMILES, CROSSED FROM DESK TO TICKET BOOTH. MR. C. FROWNS, AND DISAPPEARS--)

(ANGLE ON TICKET BOOTH -- HE REAPPEARS)

MR. C:

(CLEARS THROAT)

STACY:

Oh, don't ask me, Mr. Conductor. I don't know. Osgood Flopdinger is a nice man, but maybe we need someone new for mayor.

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

I agree. It's time for a change.

STACY:

I wish I knew more about the Mayor's opponent. He's a very mysterious figure.

Shab

MR. C:

I've seen his picture. He looks kind of familiar.

STACY:

They say he was elected to an important office some time ago. Then he went into retirement.

BECKY:

You should vote for him. It would be neat having a mysterious guy for mayor.

STACY:

It's not that simple. I want to talk to him and see what he stands for.

MR. C:

And get a feel for his basic character. Like whether he's honest.

(THE VOICE OF JAKE SCOOP IS HEARD ON THE PLATFORM)

SCOOP (OS):

Mr. Mayor! Mr. Mayor!

(MR. CONDUCTOR REACTS, WAVES BYE-BYE, AND VANISHES AS --)

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

(THE MAYOR ENTERS IN A TIZZY,
DOGGED BY SCOOP, TAKING NOTES)

MAYOR:

I'm here. And you can
quote me.

SCOOP:

Speaking of quotes, Mr.
Mayor, didn't you say
yesterday that--

(CONSULTS NOTES)

-- if I'm elected I'll
put two stoplights on
every corner?"

MAYOR:

Did I say that? Why I
suppose I did. It's not
bad, is it...

SCOOP:

But you also said last
week that "more
stoplights are a waste of
money". If that's true,
why would you put two
stoplights on every
corner? ^

✓

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

MAYOR:

Well where else should we
put them? In the
library? *The answer is*

(TURNS, FACES KIDS)

Citizens--!

(STOPS; BAFFLED)

Where are all the
citizens?

(HE LOOKS AROUND, AND FINDS HIMSELF
STARING AT SCHEMER, WHO ENTERS FROM
OTHER SIDE OF PLATFORM)

Schemer, you're a
citizen. I'll give my
speech to you...

(TAKES OUT SPEECH FROM POCKET)

& future
Fellow citizens -- I
mean, fellow Schemers: ya
know, when I think of the
flag, I get a feelin'--

SCOOP:

Mr. Mayor? Speaking of
feelings, in the latest
poll you're in second
place. How does that
make you feel?

(MAYOR STOPS -- THIS PENETRATES
EVEN HIS HAZE. STARES AT SCOOP)

MAYOR:

Well, it could be worse.
I could be in last place.

SCOOP:

Uh... Mr. Mayor? There
are only two people
running. You are in last
place.

and you can quote me on that

*should treat kids as
citizens and not
ignore them*

*> guess you are the
future citizens still
give the speech to you*

fellow citizen?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

MAYOR:

I am? Well, I don't know
what to say. And you can
quote me.

If I'm in last place
that means my opponent
is second to last and
I'm second to first.

(SCOOP WAVES THANKS AND DASHES OUT.
SCHEMER APPROACHES THE MAYOR)

SCHEMER:

Mr. Mayor, let me be
blunt. Your campaign is
a mess. You're saying
all the wrong things and
none of the right things.
You're mumbling and
fumbling and dithering
and blithering. and you're even
misspelling words

MAYOR:

No is spelled NOO pronounced

No, I, well, uh, but, I,
um--

SCHEMER:

What you need is a
campaign manager. What
you need.. is me. With
me running your campaign,
even you can't lose.

MAYOR:

Even me? Well well--

SCHEMER:

Of course, I cannot do
this for free. I'm a
businessman. So suppose
we say that, if -- or
rather, when -- you win,
you will give me... all
the money you have. The money people have donated to your campaign

MAYOR:

I don't think I can
afford that.

Nobody's donated money to my campaign

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Then how about when you win, you appoint me Secretary of Money. That means I would be in charge of all the town's money, and I could spend it however I wanted. It's either that, Mr. Mayor, or you lose the election.

*And when we run out of money
you tell the people
the town needs more money*

(THE MAYOR AGONIZES FOR TWO SECONDS. HOLDS OUT HAND, THEY SHAKE)

MAYOR:

All right, Schemer. You're my manager. Shall I tell you my ideas about being mayor?

SCHEMER:

No. ^{Just} Go back to your office.

MAYOR:

Yes, all right. I like my office. Citizens! Thank you.

& future citizens

(HE LEAVES. SCHEMER RUBS HIS HANDS IN GLEE)

(CUT TO:)

SCENE 2

(INT. JUKEBOX -- DRESSING ROOM)

(THE PUPPETS ARE TAKEN ABACK)

DIDI:

Is Schemer kidding, or
what? He doesn't know
anything about getting
the mayor ~~elected~~. *re-elected* ✓

TITO:

Looks like he knows more
than the Mayor.

REX:

So who^{re} you gonna vote
for, Tex? ✓

TEX:

You got me, Rex. I don't
know anything about that
new fella.

TITO:

And how good can the
Mayor be if he just hired
Schemer?

DIDI:

Let's vote for the new
guy.

ALL:

Yeah!

(CUT TO:)

SCENE 3
(MAINSET)

(LATER)

(SCHEMER IS BUSILY SLAPPING UP POSTERS AND BUMPER STICKERS READING "FLOPDINGER FOR MAYOR" AND "RE-ELECT FLOPDINGER", ETC. EACH POSTER ALSO MAKES MENTION OF SCHEMER AS CAMPAIGN MANAGER. HE WEARS A HUGE CAMPAIGN BUTTON WITH THE MAYOR'S FACE ON IT. WHILE HE WORKS, STACY EMERGES FROM BILLY'S WORKSHOP, WATCHES. HE SLAPS A STICKER ON THE MAIN DESK, SEES HER, AND GOES OVER, AND TRIES TO DRAPE A MISS AMERICA-STYLE BANNER OVER HER HEAD. SHE RECOILS)

STACY:

Oh no, Schemer. I am not helping in this campaign of yours.

SCHEMER:

Come come, Miss Jones. You like the Mayor, don't you?

STACY:

Yes, but I don't know if I want to vote for him. What are his positions and ideas?

SCHEMER:

Who cares! The question is, what are his stickers and posters? As you can see: fab-u-lous. The other question is, what is his catchy campaign slogan? I've got that, too. Ready?

STACY:

(SIGHS)

I can't wait.

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

"Floppy-D, the Mayor for me."

STACY:

"Floppy-D"?

SCHEMER:

Yeah, because his name is Flopdinger. Makes you feel good all over, doesn't it?

STACY:

Schemer, since when are you qualified to help the mayor get elected? And what does all this have to do with running a town?

SCHEMER;

Miss Jones, a snappy campaign slogan means a snappy mayor. Right?

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM -- MIDGE AND A PASSENGER ENTER)

STACY:

Wrong! people don't want clever slogans. They want to know what the mayor will do for them, and if he's honest. Look, if you're the campaign manager, you tell me: where does the Mayor stand on the question of recycling?

PASSENGER:

On his head, usually.

SCHEMER:

I heard that!

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

PASSENGER:

Good. Then you'll also
hear this: The Mayor is
a goofball. Let me spell
that for you. G-oof-b-
all. ^a Goofball.

*add an e after
hesitation*

SCHEMER:

Hey, pal, come over here.

(SCHEMER GLARES AT PASSENGER --
THEN PASTES A STICKER ON
PASSENGER'S MOUTH. PASSENGER
STAGGERS OFF)

a #Hydinger sticker

MIDGE:

That's undemocratic,
Schemer!

That's not fair campaigning

(SHE TURNS AND GOES TO HELP
PASSENGER -- AND SCHEMER SLAPS A
STICKER ON HER BACK. PASSENGER AND
MIDGE LEAVE)

SCHEMER:

That's how you win
elections, Miss Jones.
Advertise.

(ON PLATFORM - THE MAYOR ENTERS
EAGERLY)

MAYOR:

Schemer? I saw two
people outside wearing
stickers with my name on
them. Is that good?

SCHEMER:

Good isn't the word, Mr.
Mayor. Let me bring you
up to speed on the
campaign. We have
buttons. We have
stickers. We have
posters. And -- what?
Did someone say, What
about a campaign song?

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

(HE DASHES TO THE JUKEBOX UNDER--)

MAYOR:

Why no, I don't believe
anyone--

SCHEMER:

We have a dandy. Listen
to this.

(BEAT)

Uh, got a nickel?

(THE MAYOR HANDS HIM ONE. SCHEMER
PUTS IT IN, PUNCHES NUMBERS --)

(CUT TO)

SCENE 4
(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS ARE LESS THAN
THRILLED)

GRACE:

Uh-oh. Here it comes.

DIDI:

I hate the way Schemer
rewrote this song!

REX:

We gotta do it. A job's
a job, Tex.

TEX:

A song's a song, Rex.

TITO:

And a nickel's a nickel,
people. And
a-one, a-two--

(PUPPET SONG: "HUZZAY FOR THE
RAILWAY" [WITH NEW LYRICS])

(DURING SONG WE CUT AWAY TO SCHEMER
SHOWING THE MAYOR ALL HIS NEW
CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING, INCLUDING
PUTTING THE MAYOR IN A SANDWICH
BOARD WITH MAYOR ON ONE SIDE AND
SCHEMER ON THE OTHER)

picture of

(CUT TO:)

SCENE 5
(ARCADE)

(THE MAYOR LOOKS UNCERTAIN)

SCHEMER:

Whattaya think, Osgood?

MAYOR:

Well, it's, uh, a very fast song, of course, and has a lively beat and so forth... But it's mostly a song about railroads.

SCHEMER:

Well, what do you want? We're in a train station.

MAYOR:

And how come it mentions your name? I'm the one running for mayor.

SCHEMER:

Who do you think wrote it?

MAYOR:

But you're only the campaign manager. I'm a sitting mayor!

SCHEMER:

You may be sitting now, but you'll be out pounding the pavement if we don't win this one --

(ON PLATFORM -- MIDGE ENTERS, ANGRY, WITH JAKE SCOOP)

} rewrite

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

MIDGE:

Osgood, I've got a few bones to pick with you. For one thing, how come the fireworks were so piddly last Fourth of July?

MAYOR:

I, they, um, uh -- piddly? I--

SCHEMER:

We're addressing the piddliness factor. Next time we promise to spend two million dollars on fireworks. Next question.

SCOOP:

Two million! Wow! Where's the money coming from?

MIDGE:

And another thing. Every town worth its salt recycles cans and bottles. How come we don't?

MAYOR:

Well, quite simply because, uh, you see, many bottles are shaped like, uh, bombs--

(SCHEMER STEPS IN FRONT OF THE MAYOR)

?
all
Cans and bottles are for
saving - I have a
whole garage full
myself

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

I'll handle this. It
just so happens we're
planning a massive,
humongous program to
recycle cans AND bottles
AND toothpicks AND
bedroom slippers.

SCOOP:

(WRITING FURIOUSLY)

Great! How?

SCHEMER:

And! We're going to
generate electricity out
of leftover fishcakes
from the diner. We're
exploring ways to convert
old newspapers into
bicycles. The Mayor is
going to go to Japan,
every Thursday, just to
see what's going on.

]? mashed potatoes
spelling

SCOOP:

Fantastic! Who's paying
for it?

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM -- DAN AND BECKY
ENTER)

(SCHEMER SPOTS THEM AND RUNS OVER;
THE OTHERS DRIFT OVER TO JOIN)

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

But can I be serious for a moment? This isn't for us. It's for... the children. These kids are our most precious natural resource.

(HE BENDS DOWN TO BECKY AND SPEAKS PATRONIZINGLY, AS THOUGH TO A TWO-YEAR-OLD. SHE STARES BACK DEADPAN)

Little girl? Would you like to have your picture taken with... THE MAYOR?

BECKY:

Snap out of it, Schemer.

*out of character
rewrite*

SCHEMER:

Let's ALL have our picture taken with the Mayor! If he'll let us.

honor us with his presence

(SCHEMER HERDS KIDS OVER TO MAYOR. PLEADINGLY--)

Will you, Mister Mayor?

MAYOR:

Well, I, you know, I'm very busy these days, what with the election and all-- *well sure*

*after all --
kids
today will be our future
kids of our future by kids
of tomorrow*

(SCHEMER SHOVES HIM OVER TO KIDS)

SCHEMER:

Of course you will! Politicians love to have their pictures taken with children! Fire away, Scoop.

elim

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

DAN:

Wait a minute. I want to ask the Mayor what he's going to do about fixing the playground.

BECKY:

I want to ask him why the library isn't open on weekends.

SCHEMER:

Kids? That's enough. The job of children in politics is to pose for photos and kisses.

(DANCES AROUND, CLAPS HANDS)

Pho-tos and kis-ses--!

BECKY:

Forget it, Schemer.

(THE KIDS DISENGAGE AND MARCH BACK TOWARD PLATFORM AS SCHEMER SPEAKS TO MAYOR. WE LOSE SIGHT OF KIDS AS--)

SCHEMER:

Who needs them? We want a picture with babies! Midge, got any babies on you? *handy?*

(BUT MIDGE IS LOOKING TOWARD PLATFORM, PUZZLED)

MIDGE:

What's going on over there?

(ALL TURN TO LOOK AT--)

SCENE 6
(PLATFORM)

(KIDS HAVE CLUSTERED TOWARD EXIT,
NOW SLOWLY PULL BACK INTO STATION,
BECAUSE SOMEONE IS ENTERING. JAKE
SCOOP RUNS OVER, AND TAKES PHOTOS
OF FIGURE WHO HAS NOT YET ENTERED)

SCOOP:

Hold it! Thanks!

(--AND FINALLY THE OTHER CANDIDATE,
MILLARD RICHHOUSE, WHO BEARS A
STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO RICHARD
NIXON, ENTERS)

J ???

RICHHOUSE:

You're very, very
welcome.

(HE GOES TO KIDS AND AWKWARDLY
INSERTS HIMSELF AMONG THEM AS SCOOP
SNAPS. KIDS ARE SO PUZZLED THEY
JUST STAND THERE)

SCOOP:

(AIMING CAMERA)

Just look natural --

(RICHHOUSE SHOOTS OUT BOTH HANDS IN
THE FAMILIAR "V" SIGN, AS FROM THE
HELICOPTER EN ROUTE TO EXILE. THEN
HE SEEMS TO HESITATE -- MAYBE
THAT'S TOO PASSE. DRAWS IN BOTH
HANDS, AS THOUGH ON PULLEYS, AND
INSTEAD GRINS AND DOES A MECHANICAL
THUMBS-UP. FLASH AS SCOOP SHOOTS.
THEN RICHHOUSE STEPS DOWNS INTO
STATION, SEES THE ASSEMBLED LOOKING
ON, AND SO LAUNCHES INTO A SPEECH)

SCENE 7
(MAINSET)

RICHHOUSE:

My fellow Shining Timers:
Hello. Some of my
enemies have asked why I
am running for mayor of
this great town of ours.

SCOOP:

What enemies?

RICHHOUSE:

Well let me be perfectly
clear about that: I am
running because I believe
that this town needs a
strong mayor, a mayor who
can make the hard
decisions, who won't cut
and run when the going
gets tough.

SCOOP:

What enemies?

RICHHOUSE:

Now I know there are
certain members of the
press who will ask, What
enemies? Well, that is
their right. They know
who they are. And let me
say, I've been a public
servant all my life, and
I know who they are, too.

MIDGE:

He must really know his
stuff. I can't
understand a word he's
saying.

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

RICHHOUSE:

I've been in the kitchen.
I can take the heat. And
I can dish it out. All
my life I've been a
servant in a hot kitchen,
dishing it out and taking
it upstairs to the rich
people eating fancy
dinners with my enemies.
So thank you and now it's
on to City Hall!

(POLITE APPLAUSE FROM ALL; SCHEMER
PULLS MAYOR OVER TO RICHHOUSE)

SCHEMER:

Hey, Richhouse, I'd like
you to meet the REAL
mayor, the Honorable
Osgood Bob Flopdinger.

(THUMBS TOWARD RICHHOUSE)

Millard Richhouse, the
other guy.

(THEY STIFFLY SHAKE HANDS AS SCOOP
SHOOTS PHOTO)

You just moved to town,
didn't you? So you don't
know a thing about our
problems here.

RICHHOUSE:

(RE: MAYOR)

I know a heck of a lot
more than ~~him~~! *he does.*

(UPROAR. ALL START TALKING AT
ONCE -- THE MAYOR INDIGNANT,
RICHHOUSE IMPLACABLE, ETC. -- UNTIL
SCOOP INTERVENES AND SHOUTS FOR
QUIET)

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

SCOOP:

Gentlemen! Why don't we
settle this in the usual
way? A debate.

RICHHOUSE:

As long as it isn't run
by the press.

MAYOR:

Or the voters.

] why not let the kids
ask questions

SCHEMER:

Who else is there? okay,
no debate--

SCOOP:

~~I've got it.~~ We'll
have the kids run it.
they can ask the
questions. We'll
broadcast it live on TV!
"Meet the Kids"!

MAYOR:

The kids? But they
don't even vote.

] The kids don't vote yet
but they sometimes know
what's going on

SCHEMER:

It's a deal.

(TO RICHHOUSE)

See you at the debate.

(TO MAYOR, LEADING HIM OFF)

You're smarter than most
kids, aren't you?

] eh

(MAYOR NODS -- DOUBTFULLY -- AS
WE --)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 8
(MAINSET)

(NEAR SIGNAL HOUSE)

(THE KIDS ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE
DEBATE)

DAN:

I can't wait to ask the
Mayor about the
playground.

BECKY:

I can't wait to ask Mr.
Richhouse about
recycling.

(MR. C. APPEARS, STRUGGLING WITH
BALLOON)

DAN:

Mr. Conductor! Need some
help?

MR. C:

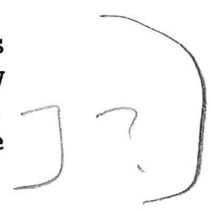
No, thanks, Dan --

(THE BALLOON EXPELS AIR, DRAGGING
HIM ACROSS THE BENCH/FLOOR. HE
GETS BACK TO HIS FEET)

That's what you get when
you lose control of your
own hot air. Reminds me
of politicians, actually.
Funny thing is, the more
hot air they let out, the
more puffed up they
become!

DAN:

The Mayor sure seems
puffed up. I don't know
about Mr. Richhouse,
though. He seems more
like puffed-down.



SCENE 8 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

The Mayor's problem is simple. He just doesn't know when to admit a mistake.

KARA:

Like hiring Schemer to run his campaign.

MR. C:

Not that he's the only one like that. In fact the case of Gordon and Edward -- well, see what you think...

(HE BLOWS HIS WHISTLE)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 9

(THOMAS EPISODE #2 -- "EDWARD HELPS
OUT")

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 10
(MAINSET)

BECKY:

Gordon is so full of
himself!

DAN:

He couldn't even admit
that Edward helped him.

BECKY:

Just like the Mayor can't
admit that Schemer ISN'T
helping him.

MR. C:

If he doesn't get rid of
Schemer and back on
track, we may just have a
new mayor...

(DISSOLVE TO:)

~~conceited~~
conceited
thinks he's so great

SCENE 11

(FULL SCREEN GRAPHIC: "MEET THE KIDS")

(MUSIC UP -- URGENT, NEWSY TELETYPE THEME)

(CUT TO: "THE RACE FOR MAYOR")

SCOOP (VO):

Welcome to "Meet the Kids". Today's topic: The Race for Mayor.

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 12
(MAINSET)

(THE DEBATE SET HAS BEEN SET UP:
TWO PODIUMS SOME DISTANCE APART,
WITH THE QUESTIONERS' TABLE
DOWNSTAGE CENTER. BUNTING,
BALLOONS, ETC. LIGHTS UP: THE
KIDS ARE IN PLACE, AS ARE THE
CANDIDATES. WE ALSO SEE A TV
CAMERA SHOOTING THE SCENE, AND
SCOOP FRONT AND CENTER, WITH MIKE.
HE ADDRESSES THE CAMERA AND
"STUDIO" AUDIENCE. INTERCUT AMONG
ALL AS APPROPRIATE)

SCOOP:

Good evening, and welcome
to the Shining Time
Station Debate. We'll
start the questioning
with Dan.

DAN:

Mr. Richhouse, how will
you fix up the playground
in the park?

RICHHOUSE:

By making the hard
choices and the tough
decisions.

DAN:

How about you, Mayor
Flopddinger?

SCHEMER:

Uh, Mr. Moderator? May I
ask that the questioners
address the Mayor as
"Hizzoner, Floppy-D"?

SCOOP:

No. Mr. Mayor, please
answer the question.

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MAYOR:

I, uh, --

(HE SQUINTS, AND SEES --)

(ANGLE ON SCHEMER -- HE IS HOLDING
UP CUE CARDS, WHICH MAYOR READS)

"We'll build a whole new
playground. Kids who
want to play in it will
pay Schemer a small
admission fee."

(THE CROWD [STACY, MIDGE,
PASSENGERS, ETC.] MURMUR IN
DISAPPROVAL)

SCOOP:

Next question from Becky.

BECKY:

Mr. Richhouse, what is
your position on
recycling?

RICHHOUSE:

I've been recycling
myself for fifty years.

make vague

BECKY:

Mayor Flopdinger?

MAYOR:

(READING CUE CARD)

Uh... "I won't know until
I hire Schemer to study
the situation and tell me
what I think."

(THE CROWD AGAIN VOICES
DISAPPROVAL)

SCOOP:

Another question from
Becky.

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

BECKY:

Mr. Richhouse, what
advice would you give to
kids about life?

RICHHOUSE:

Destroy your enemies
before they destroy you.
Always tell the truth if
you can afford to. Don't
quit unless they make
you.

BECKY:

How about you, Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR:

(READING)

Uh, um -- "When in doubt,
say Schemer--"

(THE MAYOR FALTERS AS THE CROWD
GETS LOUDER AND MORE DISTRESSED)

Well, he's telling me to
say that.

(THE CROWD BOOS AND WAVES OFF THE
MAYOR. SCHEMER SEES THIS, THROWS
HIS HANDS UP IN RESIGNATION, GRABS
A SIGN, AND SCRAWLS ON IT. HOLDS
IT UP TO MAYOR, WHO READS)

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MAYOR:

"I... I quiet... I quite
-- I quite what?... I-I
quit? Look here,
Schemer, you can't quit.
You're fired!

(AS CROWD CHEERS)

Friends, I apologize.
We'll buy new equipment
for the playground.
We've been too slow too
start recycling, but if
you elect me I'll get on
it right away. I've been
wrong to avoid talking
about these things. But
my biggest mistake was in
hiring Schemer. He has
no respect for the voting
public. I may be a
little distracted, but
you all know I respect
you. Thank you.

HE NODS, AND EXITS)

RICHHOUSE:

Now wait a minute. I can
do that. I didn't even
hire that Schemer fella,
but if I did, I'd fire
him, too. Thank you, and
you're fired.

(HE NODS, LEAVES. PUZZLED MURMUR
FROM CROWD AS WE --)

(DISSOLVE TO)

SCENE 13
(MAINSET)

(NEXT DAY. A BALLOT BOX STANDS IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE STATION. PEOPLE
ARE SEEN DROPPING THEIR BALLOTS IN.
LINGERING ON THE SIDE IS JAKE
SCOOP, TAKING NOTES AND OBSERVING)

SCENE 14

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS ARE EXCITED. DIDI STANDS FRONT AND CENTER WITH BALLOT, FOLDED INTO PAPER AIRPLANE, IN HER HAND. [THE OTHERS HAVE ALREADY VOTED.])

DIDI:

Come on, you guys!
Aren't you going to vote?

TITO:

We already did, Didi.
You're the last one.

DIDI:

I better hurry up. Hey,
who'd ya vote for?

(SILENCE -- THE OTHERS FIDGET)

Well? Come on! Who?

REX:

Thing is, darlin', voting
is a private business.
Ain't that so, TEx?

TEX:

I don't even know who you
voted for, Rex.

TITO:

So send it on out, honey,
and let's rehearse.²

DIDI:

Okay --

(SHE TOSSES PLANE)

(FAST CUT TO --)

SCENE 15
(MAINSET)

(AT FOOT OF JUKEBOX -- FIVE
AIRPLANES ARE ON FLOOR. STACY PICKS
THEM UP AND CROSSES TO BALLOT BOX,
DROPS THEM IN. MIDGE WATCHES HER,
CLUTCHING HER BALLOT. SHE GOES TO
BOX, DROPS IT IN, UNDER --)

MIDGE:

Don't ask. I'm not
telling.

STACY:

I'm not asking.

(STACY GOES TO HER DESK, GETS HERS,
RETURNS TO BOX, DROPS IT IN, AS
MIDGE WATCHES)

MIDGE:

I'm not interested.

STACY:

I'm not telling.

MIDGE:

(BEAT)

I'm wondering.

STACY:

I'm not telling.

MIDGE:

I'm not asking!

(SCHEMER APPEARS ON PLATFORM)

✓
suggests
set to vote
but kids
don't

SCENE 15 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Attention, voters.

(GOES TO BOX)

I, Schemer, hereby cast
my ballot for--

(STUFFS IT IN)

--MILLARD RICHHOUSE.
Because if Osgood
Bob Flopdinger won't
listen to me, I won't
vote for him. So there.

(HE LEAVES. IMMEDIATELY, MR. C.
APPEARS ON BOX, HOLDING LIFE-SIZE
[i.e. TO HIM, GIANT] BALLOT. HE
LOOKS AROUND -- NO ONE SEES HIM.
DROPS BALLOT IN BOX, DUSTS OFF HIS
HANDS, DISAPPEARS)

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM -- DAN AND BECKY
ENTER. THEY SEE SCOOP AND GO OVER
TO HIM)

BECKY:

So, Mr. Scoop, who'd you
vote for?

DAN:

Becky! You're not
supposed to ask that.
Voting is personal.

SCOOP:

That's okay. The answer
is, nobody. What's the
point? One vote won't
make any difference.

KARA:

If everybody felt that
way, there wouldn't be
any elections at all.

SCENE 15 (CONT'D)

SCOOP:

Okay, but other people do
vote.

DAN:

Yeah, which means that if
you don't, they get to
use their power, but you
don't use yours.

BECKY:

Whoever win^s is going to
be your mayor whether you
vote or not. ✓

(BEAT. SCOOP PONDERES)

SCOOP:

You got a point there.

(CROSSES TO BOX)

But it still won't make
any difference.

(HE GETS BALLOT, FILLS IT IN, DROPS
IN BOX)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 16
(MAINSET)

(NEXT DAY. STACY IS AT MAIN DESK,
WHILE KIDS HANG OUT NEAR SIGNAL
HOUSE. SUDDENLY MIDGE SCURRIES IN,
AGOG)

MIDGE:

Stacy, guess what. He
won! Osgood! By one
vote! Which was probably
mine!

(SCHEMER SUDDENLY APPEARS, RUNS IN)

SCHEMER:

Guess what!

MIDGE:

We already know.

SCHEMER:

Floppy-D has been re-
elected! Which means my
campaign was a success!

(OFF HER GLARE)

At first. A little.

(THE MAYOR COMES HUFFING IN)

MAYOR:

Stacy, Midge, kids...
even Schemer: it was
close, but we did it.

(TO SCHEMER)

By "we" I mean, I did it.

(TO ALL)

I want to thank you --
most of you -- and I
promise to live up to my
promises... including
that one. And that's a
promise. And that one
too...oh dear...

SCENE 16 (CONT'D)

(HE WANDERS OFF, MUTTERING. JAKE
SCOOP ENTERS, GOES UP TO KIDS)

SCOOP:

Looks like you kids were
right. Not only did my
vote make a difference --
but everybody's did.

(THE KIDS HOLDS OUT THEIR; SCOOP
GIVES THEM FIVE)

(CUT TO:)



SCENE 17

(INT. JUKEBOX -- DRESSING ROOM)

(THE PUPPETS ARE [MOSTLY]
DELIGHTED)

TITO:

My man won!

REX:

Mine, too, Tex.

GRACE:

I voted for Richhouse.

DIDI:

Me, too.

TITO:

Well, if that cat Mayor
Flopdinge is any good,
he'll look out for
everybody whether they
voted for him or not.

(CUT TO:)

SCENE 18
(MAINSET)

(RICHHOUSE ENTERS WITH PACKED BAGS.
STACY AND KIDS APPROACH)

STACY:

You gave it a good try,
Mr. Richhouse. Going on
vacation?

RICHHOUSE:

Moving, Miss Jones.

DAN:

But you just got here.

RICHHOUSE:

Now I know some people
will say, Richhouse, you
just got here. They call
me a quitter. Well, I'm
not a quitter. I'm moving
on -- to a new town, and
a new election.

DAN:

But you just lost the
election. Why do you
want to run for another
one?

(RICHHOUSE KNEELS DOWN. HIS
CONVICTION IS SINCERE)

SCENE 18 (CONT'D)

RICHHOUSE:

Kids, let me make this crystal clear: I may have made some mistakes in the past, but all I've ever wanted to do is help people. And if I ever win another election again, I'm going to make it my job to help all the people. Because any politician who doesn't try to help all people, doesn't deserve to win. Just remember that when you're old enough to vote.

(SFX: TRAIN WHISTLE)

There's my train. But don't worry. One day, when you think I'm gone forever, I'll be back!

(HE SHOOTS OUT V-SIGN AND EXITS.
MR. C. APPEARS ON MAIN DESK)

STACY:

Everybody voted this time, Mr. Conductor.

MR. C:

It's exciting, isn't it? Maybe I'll run for mayor next time.

BECKY:

That would be great! You could give speeches to big crowds--

DAN:

-- and do a debate on TV.

SCENE 18 (CONT'D)

KARA:

-- and if you win, have a
huge office where people
come in to see you every
day!

(MR. C. THINKS FOR A BEAT)

MR. C:

On second thought, maybe
I'll just go fishing.

(-- AND DISAPPEARS)